

In the claims

1. (Currently Amended) A communications system, having a prepaid architecture for managing a plurality of prepaid wireless accounts for communication services, wherein each prepaid account is associated with a prepaid subscriber, comprising:
 - a wireless network including a mobile switch, in communication with a wireless device, the wireless device for remotely managing at least one of the prepaid accounts wherein upon a communication session with the wireless device ending, the account balance is automatically pushed to the wireless device;
 - a wide area network including:
 - a prepaid account database for storing records assigned to subscribers of prepaid communications services;
 - a prepaid application module for initializing and updating the prepaid accounts and for obtaining the account balance and pushing the account balance to the wireless device upon the communication session with the wireless device ending;
 - a credit card transaction server, coupled to a credit card database, for checking available credit; and
 - a prepaid server coupled to the prepaid account database and the prepaid application module; and
 - a gateway in communication with the mobile switch of the wireless network and in communication with the wide area network to deliver the account balance from the prepaid server to the wireless device.
2. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising:
 - a web appliance, in communication with the wide area network, for remotely managing at least one of the prepaid accounts.
3. (Original) The system of claim 2 wherein the wireless device is WAP-enabled and wherein the mobile switch is WAP-enabled and wherein the gateway is WAP-enabled.

4. (Original) The system of claim 3, wherein the wireless device is selected from the group consisting of a cellular telephone, a personal digital assistant and a pager.
5. (Original) The system of claim 4, wherein the gateway is selected from the group consisting of a push proxy and a WAP push proxy.
6. (Currently Amended) A method for initializing a prepaid wireless account for communication services, wherein the prepaid account is associated with a prepaid subscriber, the method comprising:
 - providing wireless access to a network for managing the prepaid account;
 - coupling a wireless device to the network;
 - collecting credit card account information from the prepaid subscriber through the network by the prepaid subscriber entering the credit card information into the wireless device;
 - establishing the prepaid account on a subscriber account database;
 - receiving a prepaid amount from the prepaid subscriber by the prepaid subscriber entering the prepaid amount into the wireless device; and
 - checking the credit card account for available credit based on the prepaid amount.
7. (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising:
 - coupling a web appliance to the network for managing the prepaid account.
8. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the wireless device is WAP-enabled.
9. (Currently Amended) A method for replenishing a prepaid wireless account, wherein the prepaid account is associated with a prepaid subscriber, and wherein the account includes credit card account information associated with a subscriber requesting replenishment, the method comprising:
 - providing wireless access to a network for managing the prepaid account;
 - coupling a wireless device to the network; [[and]]

receiving credit card account information through the network by the subscriber entering the credit card account information into the wireless device; and charging a pre-authorized amount to the credit card account identified by the credit card account information.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising:
coupling a web appliance to the network for managing the prepaid account.
11. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the wireless device is WAP-enabled.
12. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising:
pushing an alert to the wireless device when a subscriber account balance falls below a recharge threshold amount.
13. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising:
pushing an alert to the wireless device at a predetermined frequency.
14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein pushing an alert to the wireless device includes pushing the alert during a communications session.
15. (Currently Amended) A method for retrieving an account balance for a prepaid wireless account, wherein the prepaid account is associated with a prepaid subscriber, and wherein the account balance is stored in a customer account database, the method comprising:
providing wireless access to a network for managing the prepaid account;
coupling a wireless device to the network; [[and]]
upon receiving an indication that a communication session with the wireless device has ended, automatically querying the customer account database to obtain the account balance and pushing the account balance to the wireless device for notifying a prepaid subscriber.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising:
coupling a web appliance to the network for managing the prepaid account.
17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the wireless device is WAP-enabled.
18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, further comprising:
in addition to pushing the account balance to the wireless device upon a
communication session with the wireless device ending, pushing an alert
to the wireless device when a subscriber account balance falls below a
recharge threshold amount.
19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, further comprising:
in addition to pushing the account balance to the wireless device upon a
communication session with the wireless device ending, pushing an alert
to the wireless device at a pre-determined frequency.
20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, wherein pushing an alert to the
wireless device includes pushing the alert during ~~[[a]]~~ the communications
session.
21. (Currently Amended) A system for initializing a prepaid wireless account for
communication services, wherein the prepaid account is associated with a prepaid
subscriber, the system comprising:
means for providing wireless access to a network for managing the prepaid
account;
means for coupling a wireless device to the network;
means for collecting credit card account information from the prepaid subscriber
through the network by the subscriber entering the credit card account
information into the wireless device;
means for establishing the prepaid account on a subscriber account database;

- means for receiving a prepaid amount from the prepaid subscriber by the subscriber entering the prepaid amount information into the wireless device; and
- means for checking the credit card account for available credit based on the prepaid amount.
22. (Original) The system of claim 21, further comprising:
means for coupling a web appliance to the network for managing the prepaid account.
23. (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein the wireless device is WAP-enabled.
24. (Currently Amended) A system for replenishing a prepaid wireless account, wherein the prepaid account is associated with a prepaid subscriber, and wherein the account includes credit card account information associated with a subscriber requesting replenishment, the system comprising:
means for providing wireless access to a network for managing the prepaid account;
means for coupling a wireless device to the network; [[and]]
means for receiving credit card account information through the network by the subscriber entering the credit card information into the wireless device;
means for charging a pre-authorized amount to the credit card account.
25. (Original) The system of claim 24, further comprising:
means for coupling a web appliance to the network for managing the prepaid account.
26. (Original) The system of claim 25, wherein the wireless device is WAP-enabled.
27. (Original) The system of claim 26, further comprising:
means for pushing an alert to the wireless device when a subscriber account balance falls below a recharge threshold amount.

28. (Original) The system of claim 27, further comprising:
means for pushing an alert to the wireless device at a predetermined frequency.
29. (Original) The system of claim 28, wherein pushing an alert to the wireless device includes means for pushing the alert during a communications session.
30. (Currently Amended) A system for retrieving an account balance for a prepaid wireless account, wherein the prepaid account is associated with a prepaid subscriber, and wherein the account balance is stored in a customer account database, the steps comprising:
means for providing wireless access to a network for managing the prepaid account;
means for coupling a wireless device to the network; and
means for automatically querying the customer account database to retrieve the account balance upon a communication session with the wireless device ending and pushing the retrieved account balance to the wireless device.
31. (Original) The system of claim 30, further comprising:
means for providing a web appliance for accessing the network; and
means for coupling a web appliance to the network for managing the prepaid account.
32. (Original) The system of claim 31, wherein the wireless device is WAP-enabled.
33. (Original) The system of claim 32, further comprising:
means for pushing an alert to the wireless device when a subscriber account balance falls below a recharge threshold amount.
34. (Original) The system of claim 33, further comprising:
means for pushing an alert to the wireless device at a predetermined frequency.

35. (Original) The system of claim 34, wherein pushing an alert to the wireless device includes means for pushing the alert during a communications session.

36. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the steps of:

collecting credit card account information from a prepaid subscriber, wherein the prepaid account is associated with a prepaid subscriber and wherein the credit card information is collected by the prepaid subscriber entering the credit card account information into a wireless device in communication with a network;

establishing the prepaid account on a subscriber account database;

receiving a prepaid amount from the prepaid subscriber by the subscriber entering the prepaid amount into the wireless device;

checking the credit card account for available credit based on the prepaid amount; pushing the account balance to the wireless device upon the completion of each communication session with the wireless device;

and

pushing an alert to the wireless device when a subscriber account balance falls below a recharge threshold amount.

37. (Original) The medium of claim 36, having instructions stored thereon that cause the processor to perform the further step of:

pushing an alert to the wireless device at a predetermined frequency.

38. (Original) The medium of claim 37, having instructions stored thereon that cause the processor to perform the further step of:

pushing the alert during a communications session.